

Sex, Death, and Data
Sociology/Demography C126
UC Berkeley, Fall 2024

Professor

Diana Greene Foster dianagfoster@berkeley.edu

Lectures: MWF 11-12, Hearst Mining 390

Office Hours: Friday 1:30-2:30pm in Social Science 325 or by email appointment

<https://calendly.com/dianagfoster-berkeley/diana-foster-office-hours>

Graduate Student Instructors

Juana Montoya Murillo jgmontoyam@berkeley.edu

Office Hours: M 2-3 PM

https://calendly.com/jgmontoyam/c126_office-hours

Benjamin Njila Fields benjaminfields@berkeley.edu

Office Hours: TBD

Gauri Bhardwaj gauri_bhardwaj@berkeley.edu

Office Hours: Tues 2-3 PM

https://calendly.com/gauri_bhardwaj-berkeley/gauri-s-office-hours

Sections will begin the week of September 2

101 M 10:00 am - 10:59 am Wheeler 224 Benjamin

102 Tu 5:00 pm - 5:59 pm Dwinelle 255 Benjamin

103 W 4:00 pm - 4:59 pm Social Sciences Building 104 Juana

104 Th 5:00 pm - 5:59 pm Dwinelle 255 Gauri

105 F 9:00 am - 9:59 am Social Sciences Building 104 Juana

106 F 10:00 am - 10:59 am Etcheverry 3109 Gauri

Overview

Formally, Demography is the study of statistics about birth, death, and migration. In practice, it's a field where one can study many (measurable) aspects of human life – sex, contraception, marriage, education, employment, poverty, race, sickness, health, and parenthood. This course focuses on sex and death, the driving forces of population structure and change.

We'll examine some big questions. Is human life getting worse? What are the trends in causes of human misery such as violence, disease and famine? Are we rapidly outgrowing our finite planet or, alternatively, are we at risk of extinction due to below replacement birth rates? If the latter, how are we achieving such low birth rates? In particular, how do sexual behavior, contraception and abortion affect the number of children we conceive and carry to term?

We will discuss how births and deaths shape populations and our futures. We will look at historical events that entailed exceptional numbers of deaths and the ways those events transformed the structure of populations. We'll explore some difficult topics at the nexus of sex and death – gender-based violence, sex-selective infanticide, differential lifespans between males and females and abortion.

We will have several excellent guest lecturers who can provide different perspectives on sex, birth and death. For example, we will hear from researchers who study the AIDS epidemic and physicians whose work sometimes brings them to the moment of both birth and death.

Throughout the course, we will question the basis of our knowledge and beliefs about basic facts concerning sex and death for the distant past, for populations without a written record, and about behaviors that are hidden and private. At the end of this course, you will have a basic toolkit for understanding statistical data about birth and death, and for thinking about population issues as they relate to contemporary life.

Format and practicalities

Attendance: This course combines three lectures a week with smaller discussion sections. Participation in lectures and discussion is required and will include responding to in class polls. Attendance at guest lectures is extremely important. Attendance will also be taken in discussion sections. If you are unable to attend or if you want to rewatch a lecture, recordings will be available on bCourses.

If you are sick, **DO NOT COME TO CLASS**. There will be a google form available through bCourses where you can excuse your own absence. No need to email me or the GSIs unless you want sympathy for your illness or kudos for not giving a virus to the rest of us.

Respect: We will cover a body of material intimately related to issues of policy and politics, ethics, religion, family, and sexuality. Smart and well-informed people disagree about these issues. There is a scientific literature – facts, theories, and approaches that I expect you to master – but also considerable scope for reflection, different opinions, and debate. To be part of the discussion, it is critical that you do the assigned reading before class and engage with each other in a respectful manner.

What readings are required? Most readings will be available electronically through bCourses at <http://bCourses.berkeley.edu>, under the educational fair use policy of US copyright law. Please purchase a copy of Ina Park's Strange Bedfellows. It is available for about \$12 online. If you cannot purchase one, Dr. Foster can loan you a copy.

Timely completion of assignments: Work is due online through bCourses according to the schedule in the syllabus. Late essays and homework will receive a deduction of 10% per day late. If you have extenuating circumstances, please reach out to one of the GSIs.

Berkeley honor code: We all participate in maintaining our honor code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." I intend to treat you with the dignity and respect you deserve. For example, when I lecture, I endeavor to always cite my sources, identify places where experts disagree, and tell you honestly when I do not know the answer to a question. Your obligations are reciprocal: treat your fellow students and GSIs with respect, do your own work on assignments and exams, and cite your sources. If at any point you have any questions about how the honor code applies to a given context, please feel free to ask me or your GSI—we want to help you.

Accommodations: I am committed to making my class accessible to all students. If there are any ways in which you require accommodation (say, for religious observance, to have the readings scanned into text-to-voice software, or for any other reason), please let me or your GSI know and we will work with you. Information about disability accommodation at UC Berkeley is available at <http://dsp.berkeley.edu>.

Specific course requirements

Students will be expected to:

- **Read the assigned material** by the class period indicated in the syllabus.

- **Demonstrate engagement and ongoing learning** by attending lectures and actively participating in section. Your lecture participation grade is based on attendance, evaluated through participation in in-class polls. We'll be using polleverywhere. You do not need to buy a special device. If you do not have a phone or computer capable of reaching polleverywhere.com during class, please let your GSI or the professor know.
- **Demonstrate mastery of the course material through an in-class midterm and final exam.** The exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions. The final will be cumulative, but will emphasize the material in the second half of the course.
- **Write a short (4-5 page, roughly 1200-1400 word) essay about a topic from the class that interests you.** The essay will be due November 20. Through this essay, you can explore ideas raised in the lecture or readings, pursue case studies, present data for alternative arguments, or apply demographic concepts to new topics.
- **Complete four homework assignments** related to the class material, as indicated in the syllabus. Homework is turned in through bCourses.
- **Do two short oral presentations.** You will need to record two recorded presentations with powerpoint slides to share with your section. Do one on each of the following topics:
 - Presentation of a famous person who died of one of the causes discussed in the course (e.g., maternal mortality, infant mortality, AIDS, Syphilis).
 - Presentation of your essay

Presentations should be 3-5 minutes long and have 3-5 slides. If you cannot do a recorded presentation due to a preexisting condition, let your GSI know and we will create an alternative assignment.

Grades will be based on

- Mid-term exam: 15%
- Final exam: 20%
- Four homework assignments: 5% each
- Essay: 25%
- Two recorded presentations: 5% each
- Attendance and participation: 10% (includes sharing and offering comments on classmates' presentations)

Final grades will generally follow the usual distribution (ie. 94% is an A, 90% is an A-, etc.). However, grade cut-points may be altered slightly so that they fall at natural breaks in the point distribution. They will only be altered in a way that improve your grades (eg, 89% may be an A- but 91% will not be a B+). A+'s may be given, depending on the grade distribution. If you believe that a grade on an assignment, essay or exam question is inappropriate or unfair, submit the original paper with a written description of what you would like reconsidered.

Due Dates

Homework Assignments: September 6, September 18, September 30, and November 8

Recorded presentations: October 9, December 2

Essay due: November 20

Midterm: October 30

Final: December 16

Appreciation

Thanks to Dr. Jenna Johnson-Hanks, now Executive Dean of the College of Letters and Science, who established this course and who thought of the excellent course title. Many of the lectures will be based on her initial conception. And

thank you to Dr. Byron Villacis, Dr. Ryan Edwards, and Dr. Johnson-Hanks who taught this class previously and whose slides informed my own.

	Date	Class	Required Readings
I. History of Human Population			
1	28-Aug	Introduction: Sex and death	
2	30-Aug	History of world population	Chapter 5. Hill, Kim, and A. Magdalena Hurtado. 2017. <i>Ache Life History: The Ecology and Demography of a Foraging People</i> . Routledge
3	4-Sep	DT & ET: Describing the mortality decline	Diamond, Jared. 1999. "The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race." <i>Discover</i> , April 30, 1999
4	6-Sep	The fertility side of the demographic transition	Chapter 8. Hill, Kim, and A. Magdalena Hurtado. 2017. <i>Ache Life History: The Ecology and Demography of a Foraging People</i> . Routledge
5	9-Sep	Homeostasis and Malthus	Chapter 2. Cohen, Joel E. 1996. <i>How Many People Can the Earth Support?</i> W. W. Norton & Company.
6	11-Sep	Checks on Malthus: Ehrlich, Simon and Lam	Lam, David. 2011. "How the World Survived the Population Bomb: Lessons From 50 Years of Extraordinary Demographic History." <i>Demography</i> 48 (4): 1231–62. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-011-0070-z . Becker, Stan. (2013). "Has the World Really Survived the Population Bomb? (Commentary on How the World Survived the Population Bomb: Lessons From 50 Years of Extraordinary Demographic History)". <i>Demography</i> 50(6): 2173 - 2181 Lam, David. "Reply to Stan Becker" <i>Demography</i> 50.6 (2013): 2183-2186.
II. Inequality and Measurement			
7	13-Sep	Inequality in Life and Death	Hummer, Robert A, and Elaine M Hernandez. 2015. "The Effect of Educational Attainment on Adult Mortality in the United States." Williams, David R, Jourdyn A Lawrence, and Brigette A Davis. 2019. "Racism and Health: Evidence and Needed Research."
8	16-Sep	Inequality: Case Studies	Wrigley-Field, Elizabeth. 2020. "US Racial Inequality May Be as Deadly as COVID-19." <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> 117 (36): 21854–56. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2014750117 .
9	18-Sep	Measurement	Bridges, Khiara M. 2020. "Racial Disparities in Maternal Mortality." <i>New York University Law Review</i> 95 (5). Pages 1231-1286
10	20-Sep	Population structure, momentum dependency	Chapters 1 and 2. Rosling, Hans, Ola Rosling, and Anna Rosling Rönnlund. 2018. <i>Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World--and Why Things Are Better Than You Think</i> . Flatiron Books.
11	23-Sep	Selection	Charles, Vignetta E., Chelsea B. Polis, Srinivas K. Sridhara, and Robert W. Blum. 2008. "Abortion and Long-Term Mental Health Outcomes: A Systematic Review of the Evidence." <i>Contraception</i> 78 (6): 436–50. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2008.07.005 .
III. Mortality			
12	25-Sep	Excess male mortality: Russia (by zoom Leslie Root)	video on Russian mortality during WWII: https://youtu.be/DwKPFT-RioU Our world in data on the sex ratio: https://ourworldindata.org/gender-ratio
13	27-Sep	Why do women live longer than men? (Christina Misunas)	Goldin, Claudia. 2018. "XX>XY?: The Changing Female Advantage in Life Expectancy." <i>NBER Working Paper</i> , June.

			Chapter 2 Saini, Angela. 2018 <u>Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong-and the New Research That's Rewriting the Story</u>
14	30-Sep	Infant and child mortality	Chapters 3 and 4. Klass, Perri. 2020. <u>A Good Time to Be Born: How Science and Public Health Gave Children a Future.</u>
15	2-Oct	Violence and gender-based violence	Chapters 2 and 5. Pinker, Steven. 2011. <u>The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined</u> Tammary E, Manasi K. "Mental and sexual health outcomes associated with FGM/C in Africa: a systematic narrative synthesis." eClinicalMedicine. VOLUME 56, 101813, FEBRUARY 2023 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2022.101813
IV. Fertility			
16	4-Oct	Childbirth and maternal mortality (TBD)	Boerma, Ties, Oona M R Campbell, Agbessi Amouzou, Cauane Blumenberg, Hannah Blencowe, Allisyn Moran, Joy E Lawn, and Gloria Ikilezi. 2023. "Maternal Mortality, Stillbirths, and Neonatal Mortality: A Transition Model Based on Analyses of 151 Countries." <i>The Lancet Global Health</i> 11 (7): e1024–31. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(23)00195-X . Rabin, Roni Caryn. "What Killed Harmony Ball-Stribling?" https://www.nytimes.com/2024/08/11/health/maternal-mortality-mississippi.html
17	7-Oct	Fertility	Günther, Isabel, and Kenneth Harttgen. 2016. "Desired Fertility and Number of Children Born Across Time and Space." <i>Demography</i> 53 (1): 55–83. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-015-0451-9 .
18	9-Oct	Sex ratio at birth & China's one child policy	Das Gupta, Monica, and P.N. Mari Bhat. 1997. "Fertility Decline and Increased Manifestation of Sex Bias in India." <i>Population Studies</i> 51 (3): 307–15. https://doi.org/10.1080/0032472031000150076 .
19	11-Oct	Infertility and Fertility postponement	Schmidt, L., T. Sobotka, J. G. Bentzen, A. Nyboe Andersen, and on behalf of the ESHRE Reproduction and Society Task Force. 2012. "Demographic and Medical Consequences of the Postponement of Parenthood." <i>Human Reproduction Update</i> 18 (1): 29–43. https://doi.org/10.1093/humupd/dmr040 Ian M. Timæus, Tom A. Moultrie (2020). Pathways to Low Fertility: 50 Years of Limitation, Curtailment, and Postponement of Childbearing. <i>Demography</i> 1 February 2020; 57 (1): 267–296.
V. Sexual Behavior			
20	14-Oct	Sex, Gender, Sexual Repertoire and Pleasure	Debby Herbenick, Tsung-chieh Fu & Callie Patterson (2023) Sexual Repertoire, Duration of Partnered Sex, Sexual Pleasure, and Orgasm: Findings from a US Nationally Representative Survey of Adults, <i>Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy</i> , 49:4, 369-390, DOI: 10.1080/0092623X.2022.2126417 Chapters 1 and 10. Judson, Olivia. <u>Dr. Tatiana's sex advice to all creation</u> . 2002
21	16-oct	Sexual pleasure and contraception (Jessica Sanders by zoom)	Higgins JA, Cason P, Sanders JN. Chapter 6 Sexuality and Contraception. <i>Contraceptive Technology</i> . Pages 173-191. Chapter 10. Ina Park. <u>Strange Bedfellows</u> . Flatiron Books 2022.
22	18-Oct	Sexual behavior on college campuses	Intro and Chapter 9. Hirsch, Jennifer S., and Shamus Khan. 2020. <u>Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus</u> . W. W. Norton & Company.
23	21-Oct	Graduate Student Research (Juana Montoya Murillo, Benjamin Fields)	TBD

24	23-Oct	The Study of Sexual Behavior and Attitudes	Wellings, Kaye, Martine Collumbien, Emma Slaymaker, Susheela Singh, Zoé Hodges, Dhaval Patel, and Nathalie Bajos. 2006. "Sexual Behaviour in Context: A Global Perspective." <i>The Lancet</i> 368 (9548): 1706–28. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(06)69479-8 .
25	25-oct	Sexual assault and Pregnancy (Sam Dickman)	Tobin-Tyler E, Dickman SL. Rape, Homicide, and Abortion Bans — The Abandonment of People Subjected to Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence. <i>n engl j med</i> 391;4 nejm.org July 25, 2024
	28-Oct	Review for the midterm	
	30-Oct	<i>Midterm</i>	
26	1-Nov	Marriage	Lesthaeghe, Ron. 2010. "The Unfolding Story of the Second Demographic Transition." <i>Population and Development Review</i> 36 (2): 211–51. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1728-4457.2010.00328.x .
VI. Sexually Transmitted Infections			
27	4-Nov	Syphilis	Tampa, M, I Sarbu, C Matei, V Benea, and SR Georgescu. 2014. "Brief History of Syphilis." <i>Journal Med Life</i> . 7 (1): 4–10. Chapters 1 and 7. Ina Park. <u>Strange Bedfellows</u> . Flatiron Books 2022
28	6-Nov	HPV	Liao, Cheng-I., Alex Andrea Francoeur, Daniel S. Kapp, Michelle Ann P. Caesar, Warner K. Huh, and John K. Chan. 2022. "Trends in Human Papillomavirus–Associated Cancers, Demographic Characteristics, and Vaccinations in the US, 2001-2017." <i>JAMA Network Open</i> 5 (3): e222530. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.2530 . Chapter 4. Ina Park. <u>Strange Bedfellows</u> . Flatiron Books 2022.
29	8-Nov	STDs (Ina Park)	Chapters 5 and 8. Ina Park. <u>Strange Bedfellows</u> . Flatiron Books 2022.
30	13-Nov	Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS	Fauci AS, Eisinger RW. "PEPFAR — 15 Years and Counting the Lives Saved" <i>N Engl J Med</i> 2018;378:314-316. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1714773 Kharsany AB, Karim QA. "HIV Infection and AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa: Current Status, Challenges and Opportunities". <i>Open AIDS J</i> . 2016 Apr 8;10:34-48. doi: 10.2174/1874613601610010034. PMID: 27347270; PMCID: PMC4893541.
31	15-Nov	Intersectional Stigma and HIV equity (Miranda Hill)	Watkins-Hayes, Celeste. 2014. "Intersectionality and the Sociology of HIV/AIDS: Past, Present, and Future Research Directions." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 40 (1): 431–57. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-071312-145621 .
VII. Abortion			
32	18-Nov	Abortion globally	Horga, Mihai, Caitlin Gerdts, and Malcolm Potts. 2013. "The Remarkable Story of Romanian Women’s Struggle to Manage Their Fertility." <i>Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care</i> 39 (1): 2–4. https://doi.org/10.1136/jfprhc-2012-100498 .
33	20-Nov	Abortion in the US	Chapters 1 & 2. Foster, Diana Greene. 2020. <u>The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, a Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having—or Being Denied—an Abortion</u> .
34	22-Nov	Abortion: consequences of denial	Chapters 10 & 11. Foster, Diana Greene. 2020. <u>The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, a Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having—or Being Denied—an Abortion</u> .
	25-Nov	No Class	

35	2-dec	Medication abortion (Ushma Upadhyay)	KFF. The Availability and Use of Medication Abortion. March 20, 2024. https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/fact-sheet/the-availability-and-use-of-medication-abortion/ Koenig, L. R., Becker, A., Ko, J., & Upadhyay, U. D. (2023). The role of telehealth in promoting equitable abortion access in the United States: spatial analysis. <i>JMIR Public Health and Surveillance</i> , 9, e45671. https://publichealth.jmir.org/2023/1/e45671/PDF
VIII. Final Topics			
36	4-Dec	Urbanization and population density	Chapters 1 and 4. Glaeser, Edward. 2012. <u>Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier</u> . Penguin. Sherbinin, Alex de, David Carr, Susan Cassels, and Leiwen Jiang. 2007. "Population and Environment," <i>Annual Review of Environment and Resources</i> , 32: 345-373. Concentrate on pp. 360-365.
37	6-Dec	Future of human population: Projections, fertility and mortality	United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs. 2023. <i>World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results</i> . S.I.: UNITED NATIONS.
38	9-Dec	Final Review	
	16-Dec	<i>Final exam</i>	

Books you should buy:

Park, Ina. 2022 Strange Bedfellows

Books I recommend:

Foster, Diana Greene. 2020. The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, a Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having—or Being Denied—an Abortion

Glaeser, Edward. 2011 Triumph of the City

Hirsch, Jennifer S., and Shamus Khan. 2020. Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus

Klass, Perri. 2020. A Good Time to Be Born: How Science and Public Health Gave Children a Future

Pinker, Steven. 2011. The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined

Saini, Angela. 2018 Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong-and the New Research That's Rewriting the Story